



SAINT IVES
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
(HUNTS)

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR 1967

**LIST OF PARISHES
IN THE
COUNCIL'S AREA**

BLUNTISHAM

BROUGHTON

BURY

COLNE

EARITH

FENSTANTON

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS

HEMINGFORD GREY

HILTON

HOLYWELL-CUM-NEEDINGWORTH

HOUGHTON AND WYTON

OLDHURST

PIDLEY-CUM-FENTON

SOMERSHAM

WARBOYS

WISTOW

WOODHURST

Saint Ives Rural District Council

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Chairman of the Council:

H. E. Parren, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Mrs. W. M. Price, C.C.

Members of the Council:

Cmdr. C. F. Alington	R. G. Fleming, Esq.
H. G. W. Anderson, Esq.	R. W. Giddins, Esq.
P. W. Bailey, Esq.	J. W. Harris, Esq.
Mrs. A. R. Buck	J. D. Hutchcraft, Esq.
D. H. Burch, Esq.	R. Johnson, Esq.
D. Clifton, Esq.	G. Kiddle, Esq., M.B.E.
M. P. Denny, Esq.	R. G. Saint, Esq.
G. A. Earl, Esq., C.C.	Miss V. M. G. Thackray
Revd. A. J. R. Eyre	Canon N. Trafford, A.L.C.D.
S. E. K. Falconer, Esq.	D. B. Wright, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

R. W. Giddins, Esq.

Vice-Chairman:

D. H. Burch, Esq.

Members:

Cmdr. C. F. Alington	J. W. Harris, Esq.
H. G. W. Anderson, Esq.	C. D. Hutchcraft, Esq.
P. W. Bailey, Esq.	R. Johnson, Esq.
Mrs. A. R. Buck	H. E. Parren, Esq.
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R. G. Fleming, Esq.	D. B. Wright, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P., & S., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

G. H. Phipps, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

K. Broom, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

P. A. Haggerty, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Administrative Assistant:

B. R. Harris

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF SAINT IVES
in the County of Huntingdon and Peterborough
for the Year ended 31st December 1968.**

To:- The Chairman and Members of the
 Saint Ives Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health and sanitary conditions of the District for the year 1967.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population During the year some 580 persons were added to the estimated mid-year population of the district bringing the figure to almost the 18,000 mark. Over the last 3 years the average increase has been between 450 and 500 but changes in the Forces population can alter this figure.

Birth Rate In contrast to last year's low figure, the birth rate has now returned to a more normal level, just above the national average.

Death Rate Despite the increase of over 500 population there were 16 fewer deaths this year than last, thus reducing both the crude and the corrected death rates and maintaining them at a level well below the national average. 75% of the deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age and approximately 50% in persons of 75. Just over 60% of deaths were due to cardio—vascular disorders, 12% were due to malignant disease.

Infant Mortality Exactly the same number of infants (5) died during the year before reaching the age of 12 months. This gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 15% per 1,000 live births — a figure considerably below the figure for 1966 and still well below the national average.

Infectious Disease The outbreak of measles which began about July 1966 continued unabated until May of this Year. Almost 600 children between 1—10 years of age were affected during this epidemic; nearly 100 last year and the remainder in 1967. With the proposed introduction of measles immunisation it will be interesting to observe the effect of this measure on the future incidence of the disease.

An outbreak of dysentery occurred in the Hemingfords area during the Summer and whilst the source was never definitely established investigations did reveal at an early stage

that the mother of three children affected, managed a small food shop in the village. Had she not been put on her guard by careful instructions relating to food hygiene the number of persons affected which finally reached seven might well have been greater.

The remaining infections which occurred during the year followed the usual pattern of notifiable illness and after investigation did not give rise to any prolonged concern.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Housing The demand for housing was maintained during the year, resulting in a total of 140 houses being erected. Of this total 96 houses were due to the efforts of private enterprise, the remainder of 46, being provided by the Council. Improvement of 42 old houses a number a little above the annual average was achieved 8 of which were Council Houses, of the other 34 privately owned houses only 3 were tenanted. The small number of tenanted houses improved reflects the commonly held view amongst owners of rented property, which is simply that the small return, particularly in respect of houses subject to controlled tenancies, does not justify the expenditure. This view is corroborated by examination of slum clearance records which clearly show that the vast majority of houses subject to action are tenanted, and that rarely does an owner consider proposing improvement until termination of the existing tenancy.

It is obviously sound economics to assist improvement of old houses and indirectly recover the sums paid as grants over a long term by the automatic increase in rateable value than it is to demolish them and provide new accommodation for the displaced families, but the rate of improvement of rented houses will continue to stagnate and lapse way behind that of owner-occupied properties, until legislation is introduced to provide the incentive to property owners by enabling them to obtain rents in keeping with the present cost of living.

Main Drainage Holywell and Needingworth scheme was finished early in the year and in April, connections to house drains commenced. The main drainage scheme for Bury which has been constructed so that the effluent is treated by the sewage works of the neighbouring local authority, Ramsey U.D.C. was commenced later in the year and works progressed satisfactorily. The decision by the management of the large milk receiving depot in Fenstanton to construct its own treatment plant caused a major re-appraisal as to the design and siting of the sewage works for Fenstanton and Hilton. It is anticipated that the scheme for Warboys will commence next year.

Water Supply The Cambridge Water Company and the Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board are responsible for the supply and distribution of water in the district. No undue difficulties were experienced by either the Company or the Joint Water Board in meeting their responsibilities during the year.

In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to Mr. Phipps and all other members of the Department's staff for the assistance they have given me and for all the work they have done during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES CALDWELL.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS FOR THE AREA

General Statistics

Population (mid. 1966)	..	..	..	17,250
Population (mid. 1967)	..	..	..	17,830
Area (acres)	..	..	..	44,992
Rateable value	..	..	..	£500,818
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	£2,041
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	5,358

VITAL STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1967

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	159	154	313
Illegitimate	8	10	18
Totals	167	164	331

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	..	18.5
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (.97)		17.9
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population (England and Wales)		17.2

Still Births

Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	2	3	5

Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births		14.8
Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births (England and Wales)		14.8

Deaths	73	58	131

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	..	7.3
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (1.22)		8.9
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population (England and Wales)		11.2

Infant Mortality — Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	2	3	5

Infant mortality rate (Deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births)		15.0
Infant mortality rate (England and Wales)	..	18.3

Table classifying deaths under age groups

Ages	Male	Female	Total
Under 4 weeks	—	—	—
4 weeks and under 1 year	2	3	5
1 and under 5 years	—	1	1
5 and under 15 years	—	1	1
15 and under 25 years	2	—	2
25 and under 35 years	—	1	1
35 and under 45 years	—	—	—
45 and under 55 years	7	2	9
55 and under 65 years	9	4	13
65 and under 75 years	29	7	36
75 and over	24	39	63
Totals	73	58	131

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Registrar General's List)

List No.	Causes	Male	Female
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	—	2
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	3	—
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	2
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	5	3
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	1
16.	Diabetes	—	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	5	11
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	28	11
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	—
20.	Other Heart Disease	6	10
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	6	2
23.	Pneumonia	6	5
24.	Bronchitis	5	1
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	1
31.	Congenital Malformations	—	1
32.	Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	2	4
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	1
34.	All Other Accidents	3	2
	Total all Causes	73	58

The following table indicates the trend in population, birth and death rates for the district over the past 5 years:-

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Population	16,510	16,380	16,800	17,250	17,830
Births					
Total live births	302	307	302	266	331
Crude birth rate	18.3	18.7	18.0	15.4	18.56
Area comparability factor	.96	.96	.96	.96	.97
Corrected birth rate	17.6	18.0	17.3	14.8	17.9
Birth rate (England and Wales)	18.2	18.4	18.1	17.7	17.2
Deaths					
Total deaths	137	153	129	147	131
Crude death rate	8.3	9.3	7.7	8.5	7.3
Area comparability factor	1.2	1.2	1.24	1.23	1.22
Corrected death rate	9.9	11.2	9.5	10.5	8.9
Death rate (England and Wales)	12.2	11.3	11.5	11.7	11.2

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING 1967

				Total cases notified
Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	4
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	8
Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	—
Measles ..	..	..	..	499
Acute Pneumonia	..	..	..	12
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	—
Typhoid Fever ..	..	..	..	—
Paratyphoid Fever	..	..	..	—
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	—
Infective Hepatitis	..	..	..	—
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	—
Dysentery ..	..	..	..	7
Total				530

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1967 .. 31

Pulmonary .. 29

Non-pulmonary .. 2

AGE PERIODS				New Cases—Diagnosed				New Cases—Transfers			
				Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res.	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..				O	I	O	O	O	O	O	O

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) **Laboratory Facilities**

The following laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and General Practitioners in the area:-

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road,
Cambridge. (Tel. Cambridge 55526).

Public Analyst (S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.),
Tennyson Road, Cambridge. (Tel. Cambridge 2097).

(b) **Ambulance Services**

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders.
(Tel. Huntingdon 3348).

(c) **Home Nursing**

Nurse / Midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon and Peterborough County Council carried out home nursing and attended maternity cases in the District.

(d) **Clinic and Treatment Centres**

(i) The following Health Services were provided by the Huntingdon and Peterborough County Council:-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	Every Monday 9.30-10.30 a.m.	Health Centre Nursery Road Huntingdon
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 years)	Every Friday and 1st and 3rd Wednesday in month 2-4 p.m.	Health Centre Ramsey Road St. Ives
		1st Monday in month 2-4 p.m.	Constitutional Hall Fenstanton
		3rd Monday in month 2-4 p.m.	Youth Centre Somersham
		1st Wednesday in month 2-4 p.m.	Women's Institute Hall Warboys
		Alternate Thursdays 2-4 p.m.	R.A.F. Station Wyton
Dental	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	Every Monday 9-12 noon 1.30-4.30 p.m.	Health Centre Ramsey Road St. Ives
	Pre-natal and Nursing Mothers	Every Tuesday 9-12 noon 1.30-4.30 p.m. Every Saturday 9-12 noon	Health Centre Nursery Road Huntingdon

(ii) The following Health Services were provided by the Regional Hospital Board:-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday 10-12 noon	County Hospital Huntingdon
Venereal Disease	All cases	Tuesday 3-6.30 p.m. Thursday 4-6.30 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital Cambridge
	Males	Monday 4.30-6.30 p.m. Tuesday 5.30-7 p.m.	Out-Patients' Department Memorial Hospital
	Females and Children	Tuesday 10.30-12 noon Thursday 4.30-6.30 p.m.	Peterborough
Orthopaedic	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	2nd and 4th Tuesday 10-12 noon and by appointment	Health Centre Nursery Road Huntingdon

- (iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service:-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	By appointment	Health Centre Nursery Road Huntingdon

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patients' clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) **Hospital Services**

Fever Cases of Infectious Disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospital at Cambridge, Peterborough or Ely.

General Hospital Services were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases were admitted to Maternity Unit, Primrose Lane, Huntingdon and Maternity Hospital, Mill Road, Cambridge.

Clinics run by the Family Planning Association are held at the Health Clinic, Nursery Road, Huntingdon every Wednesday evening 7—8 p.m. and at the Health Clinic, Almond Road, St. Neots, every Tuesday evening 7—8 p.m.

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my thirtieth Annual Report on the scope of the work undertaken by the department in 1967.

The year was not without its problems, mainly as a result of the increasing sophistication which is inherent in a fast changing world. The spate of Legislation covering and amending the existing statutes, to keep pace with this change, did not abate one iota. Fundamental changes in Housing Subsidies, Improvement Grants, Town Planning and other subjects that profoundly affect the activities of the District Council as a Public Health Authority were made during the year and several more were in course of preparation at the end of the year.

The General Public too, is showing a greater awareness of both the type and the quality of the services it requires to be provided at all levels, by both Central and Local Government.

The restriction on Capital Expenditure and the need to utilise what resources are available for only the most essential purposes must of necessity preclude the introduction of further public amenities and also sadly check the provision of basic requirements, such as Main Drainage and Council Housing Schemes.

The report reflects both the changing circumstances and the progressive policy of the Council, which encourages the Department to introduce modern equipment, machinery and vehicles and so attract suitable and intelligent labour for its essential services.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council and my colleagues for their support and assistance during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

G. H. PHIPPS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

WATER

The Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board and the Cambridge Water Company are responsible for the supply and distribution of water in the district.

The Council has no direct representation on the Board of the Cambridge Water Company but appoints one Member to the Joint Consultation Committee. Similarly it has one representative on the Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board.

The Nene and Ouse Water Board supplies water to Hemingford Abbots, Hemingford Grey, Houghton and Wyton; the remainder of the district is supplied by the Cambridge Water Company.

During the year no restrictions on the use of water for domestic purposes were imposed by either the Board or the Company, and except in one or two areas, pressures have been adequate.

There is a good network of mains throughout the district extending to the fen areas to the North and East, and further extensions of the mains are completed to isolated farms and cottages from time to time.

The water supplied is extremely hard; up to 500 parts per million from the Joint Board, but the Cambridge Water Company has reduced this to approximately 300 parts per million by mixing softened water from Cambridge (130 parts per million) with the water from the Earith source (500 parts per million).

No fluoride is introduced into the supplies although the Council has advocated fluoridation.

The quality of all the supplies is satisfactory. Both the Joint Board and the Company take annual chemical samples at source and bacteriological samples from their distribution areas once a month.

One Firm operating a large Milk Distribution and Processing Plant has its own private source in the form of a shallow well. The water is chlorinated, softened to zero degrees and then re-chlorinated before use. Bacteriological examination of this water is carried out daily by the Firm.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The following villages now have main drainage schemes:-

Somersham	Completed 1957 Design Flow 60,000 gallons per day.
Hemingford Abbots	
Hemingford Grey	
Houghton	
Wyton	Completed 1963 Design Flow 122,000 gallons per day.
Needingworth	
Holywell	Completed 1966 Design Flow 50,000 gallons per day.

Progress towards the provision of the schemes to serve the remaining villages in the Rural District was made during the year together with a re-appraisal of the schemes still under consideration. Whereas originally it had been intended to provide separate disposal works for many of the smaller villages, experience has shown that the use of soft detergents has seriously affected the cold digestion of sewage sludge and lengthened the drying period on the Sludge Beds. This factor, coupled with the difficulty of obtaining labour to hand-dig beds and the cost of providing adequate mechanical methods of sludge drying at small sewage works, prompted the new approach.

It appears that it would now be more economical to provide adequate plant and machinery for dewatering sludge at the larger sewage disposal works which would be designed to serve adjoining villages.

This new concept will mean that where it is practical all the sewage from the smaller villages will be pumped to a single disposal works and so avoid the necessity of providing a separate works for each village. In other cases, where it would be impractical, owing to the distances involved, to provide economic pumping mains, the sewage works would not include sludge treatment plant. Instead the sludge would be transported by means of tanker vehicles to the dewatering plant at the central works.

The Council's Consulting Engineers are now preparing the remaining schemes with this objective in mind.

The following summary indicates the position reached in village schemes:-

BURY

Agreement was finally reached with Ramsey U.D.C. and the Ministry on the joint scheme for the treatment of Bury Sewage and permission to proceed with the scheme was obtained in May. The work commenced in September and will be completed in 1968. The estimated cost of the scheme being £106,289.

WARBOYS, BROUGHTON AND OLDHURST

An investigation into this scheme was carried out by a Ministry of Housing and Local Government Engineering Inspector in January 1967, and in the following June approval was received from the Ministry to proceed to tender for Warboys and Oldhurst. The Minister while accepting the need for the whole scheme felt that only in the case of Warboys and Oldhurst was there an urgent need. The Council was requested to defer the sewerage of Broughton during the present restriction on Capital Expenditure. The Council decided to obtain tenders for the scheme, as amended, from selected contractors and to incorporate a sludge dewatering plant at the disposal works at Oldhurst.

FENSTANTON AND HILTON

Further complications on this scheme arose during the year following the Ministry suggestion that the Council's proposals for the drainage of these two villages might be linked with Chesterton Rural District Council's scheme for the adjoining village of Fendrayton.

The District Council requested its Consulting Engineers to report on this aspect and ultimately decided that it would be more economical and far more satisfactory to proceed independently. Chesterton Rural District Council came to a similar decision. The Ministry, in deciding that it could not prejudice the outcome of an Inquiry into the scheme, stated that whatever decision might be made on the relationship between the Fendrayton and the Fenstanton schemes, the Minister, was of opinion that the proposals of the two Authorities should be examined at the same Inquiry. This would be held as soon as the proposals of the respective Authorities were received by the Minister.

The second complication in the final preparation of the scheme was also resolved when the Company operating a large milk processing plant at Fenstanton decided to provide its own disposal plant for the treatment of its trade effluent, amounting to 70,000 gallons per day. This decision, completely

altered the original concept of the scheme and it was now possible to explore alternatives. It was ultimately decided that it would be both economical and advantageous to treat the sewage from Fenstanton and Hilton at the existing Sewage Disposal Works at Hemingford Abbots and so obviate the necessity of providing an additional works between Hilton and Fenstanton. At the same time in redesigning the existing works to take the additional flow from these two villages it is intended to provide a sludge dewatering plant to overcome the difficulties that have arisen at the Hemingford Works by the general use of soft detergents.

The ultimate volume of sewage from the five villages would make this an economical proposition and compensate for the initial cost of the pumping main from Fenstanton to Hilton.

Approval for the provision of a Pumping Station at Church Farm, Fenstanton in advance of the Main scheme was received from the Ministry. This pumping station will enable the development of 39 acres of land, zoned for residential development, to proceed. The developers intend to provide a temporary disposal plant at their own expense.

BLUNTISHAM, COLNE AND EARITH

Negotiations for the purchase of sites for the Sewage Disposal Works at Bluntisham and Pumping Station Sites in each village, proceeded during the year and the purchase of approximately 5 acres for the works' site was completed.

The Council, anticipating further delays in the implementation of the scheme, sought permission from the Ministry to proceed immediately with a small portion of the scheme in the Hollidays Road and Rectory Road area of Bluntisham at an estimated cost of £36,000. This would enable both private and Council residential development to proceed in this area, by providing temporary disposal works, the capital cost of which would be shared by private developers and the Council.

PIDLEY, WISTOW AND WOODHURST

Little progress on these schemes was made. The Council's Consulting Engineers were instructed to proceed with the preparation of a scheme for the three villages as one contract.

In preparing the scheme the engineers will assess the advantages or otherwise of utilising the Disposal works at Oldhurst for the treatment of the sewage from these villages where sludge dewatering will be available, rather than the provision of separate works.

GENERAL

The absence of main drainage does seriously check development in several villages. At Holywell-cum-Needingworth for example the completion of the scheme in 1966 was followed by the submission of detailed proposals for the erection of some 300 houses in the parish by private developers on land which had been zoned for residential development for several years. It is anticipated that similar development will occur in Bury when the scheme comes into operation in 1968.

At Hilton the Council decided to co-operate with a private developer to provide a temporary 'Oxigest' Plant to enable the development of a small Council estate and a larger private estate. The cost of the works being shared in proportion to the number of Council and Private houses connected to it.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The river Ouse which flows through the district is controlled by the Great Ouse River Authority.

No serious flooding occurred during the year but the 'Hemingfords' will remain vulnerable to a flood reaching the 1947 level unless a similar flood protection scheme to that provided at Houghton and Wyton is constructed.

The river traffic continues to increase, the number of power driven boats containing from 2 to 6 berths, make up the greater proportion of the craft using the reaches in the Rural District. It is not known how many of these boats have adequate tanks to hold sewage, but the volume of sewage entering the river from such craft in the summer must be increasing each year and may constitute a hazard to health in the future. It would indeed be ironical if the people who enjoy the amenities of a holiday on the river unwittingly help to pollute it.

Fatalities continue to occur and the Council is very conscious of the danger inherent in the increase in the number of persons, especially children and teenagers who seek recreation on the river and its banks. Following a letter from the Huntingdon Life Guard Corps, which is associated with the Royal Life Saving Society, the Council donated a sum of £50 to the Corps, with the suggestion that it should be used for the provision of first-aid equipment.

Enquiries to the department have indicated that increasing interest is being shown by developers in sites for "Marinas" on the river banks and it is likely that some will be constructed in the near future. As the number of people attracted to

the riverside villages increases, so pressures will grow for the provision of facilities such as Car Parks and Public Conveniences.

The Council is responsible for the cleansing and maintenance of a number of awarded watercourses in the district, the necessary work being carried out by contractors using hand labour for the small brooks and machinery for the major watercourses. Several of these have been badly polluted with sewage for many years and will remain so until the main drainage schemes are completed.

In 1966 the Council entered into negotiations with the Great Ouse River Authority on the possibility of transferring its responsibilities in respect of some awarded Watercourses to the latter Authority.

The Council agreed to make a commutation payment to the River Authority based on actual maintenance costs in respect of three major watercourses, namely Bury Brook, Hall Green and West Brook in Fenstanton, and Wadsbys Folly in Bluntisham.

These watercourses have now all been vested in the River Authority as part of its main river network.

CLOSET CONVERSIONS

The total number of conversions during the year was 49. Of these 28 were in houses that were the subject of either Standard or Discretionary Grants under the Housing Acts, the remaining 21 were applications under the provisions of the Public Health Acts.

NIGHT-SOIL COLLECTION

A weekly collection of night-soil is carried out throughout the district by means of two 750 gallon Yorkshire Karrier tankers which are fitted with night-soil attachments. Approximately 430 pails were emptied each week.

The areas of land available for disposal are limited and even these areas are inaccessible during the winter months. The answer is of course main drainage. Meanwhile stop gap methods such as the provision of straw compounds at Oldhurst Sewage Works continue to be employed. The effluent is drained to the sludge drying bed sump and pumped back very slowly through the works. Similar straw compounds in isolated positions have been provided by local farmers, but as a rule these are inaccessible to the heavy tankers for many months of the year.

As explained in the section of the report dealing with Cesspool emptying the problem will be resolved when the Oldhurst Works are re-constructed for the Warboys Main Drainage Scheme.

The Contract for the collection and disposal of night-soil from Huntingdon Borough Council was discontinued on 31st March 1967.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The same vehicles are used for cesspool emptying and gully cleansing as are used for the night-soil service.

The number of cesspools and septic tanks emptied during the year was 1,245. There has been no diminution of this service. The development proceeding in those villages without main drainage and the consequent increase in the number of properties with septic tank drainage has offset the effect of the Hemingford Drainage Scheme.

With this service too, the difficulty lies not in the collection but in the disposal of vast volumes of sewage and sludge that no one wants and few can be persuaded to take.

As the proposals for the improvement and redesign of the Oldhurst Sewage Works to serve Warboys, Broughton and Oldhurst were being prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers, the opportunity was taken to incorporate additional sludge holding tanks at this works to treat both night-soil and cesspool contents and provide sludge dewatering plant with sufficient capacity to deal with this problem.

The Council's attention was drawn to the fact that a number of owners on the line of sewers at Hemingford, Houghton and Wyton had not connected their house drains to the new sewer and were still paying the nominal 25/- to have their cesspools emptied. The Council decided to increase the charge for cesspool emptying to £5, in respect of those properties within a 100 feet of the sewer and capable of being connected thereto.

To assist owners to connect, it also agreed to grant loans for this purpose repayable over an agreed period with interest as prescribed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government; a charging order being made on the house.

The Service is made available to neighbouring Local Authorities and Government Departments for desludging sewage tanks and gully emptying.

In addition the service is made available to private individuals in adjacent districts at commercial prices.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Weekly kerbside collection of house refuse throughout the district continued during the year and a satisfactory service was maintained. Three 35 cubic yard compression type vehicles fitted with hydraulic rams are used for the collections. Each vehicle is manned by three driver-loaders.

Several requests were received from householders in the district for the provision of a back door collection service and Saint Ives Borough Council requested the District Council to explore the possibility of improving the collections in the Borough. The publication of the Report by the Working Party on Refuse Collection tended to stimulate the Council's interest in this essential service and following a report to the Council, the department was asked to submit an estimate of the cost of introducing a paper sack collection service to two selected villages in the district, as a pilot scheme for a period of 12 months.

The refuse is tipped at two worked out gravel pits at Somersham and Hemingford Grey. For several years the tipping at Somersham was confined to refuse collected in the vicinity of that village and it was expensive to transfer a bulldozer from Hemingford Grey to keep the tip tidy. The Council therefore adopted the suggestion that the Somersham tip should be fully utilized during the Winter months and the Hemingford tip during the Summer.

By arrangement with Saint Ives Borough Council a weekly kerbside collection of house refuse is carried out at Saint Ives. Trade Refuse is also collected from non-domestic premises in the Borough and the Rural District. Tipping facilities are available, for which a small charge is made.

LITTER RECEPTACLES

A number of Parish Councils have provided litter bins at suitable points. Suggestions as to the best type of receptacle to be provided are made to the Parish Councils. The receptacles are emptied on the normal refuse collection days in each parish, but in the hot weather they can give rise to nuisance when not emptied more frequently and it is difficult for the parishes to find anybody to undertake this work.

ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS IN THE AREA

(a) Housing Inspections

Under Public Health and Housing Acts	168
Re-Inspections	53
Number of Preliminary Notices served	54
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with ..	54
Number of Statutory Notices served	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with ..	—

(b) Inspections under the Factories Act, 1937—1961

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	8	3	Nil	Nil
2. Section 7	53	24	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—	—
Total	61	27	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—	—

The following defects were found as a result of the inspections:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were:-				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	8	8	0	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	2	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	7	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	19	19	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—

As can be seen by reference to the above table most infringements found on routine factory inspections are connected with the general condition of the sanitary conveniences. In other respects most premises appear quite satisfactory.

(c) **Inspections under Statutes**

Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	73
Dumps, Tips	..	..	..	..	75
Public Cleansing	..	..	..	..	72
Offensive Trades	..	..	..	..	3
Butchers' Premises	..	..	..	..	37
Shops and Offices	..	..	..	..	62
Pumps, Wells	..	..	..	..	29
Drains	..	..	..	..	344
Housing Sites	..	..	..	..	196
General Public Health	..	..	..	..	426
Swimming Pools	..	..	..	..	3
Preserved Foods, etc.	..	..	..	..	20
Petroleum Stores	..	..	..	..	56
After Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	82
Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	11
Disinfestations	..	..	..	..	57
Food Regulations	..	..	..	..	91
Sewage Works	..	..	..	..	324
Improvement Grants	..	..	..	..	195
Drainage Schemes	..	..	..	..	366
Conversion Grants	..	..	..	..	123
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	37
TOTAL					2,707

In connection with the inspections itemised above 251 Informal Notices were served, and whilst on no occasion was it found necessary to resort to legal proceedings some of the complaints required a great deal of tact and patience to bring about satisfactory results.

CARAVAN SITES

Since the commencement of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, the Council has approved standard conditions applicable to all licensed caravan sites.

These standards broadly follow the Ministry's recommendations and, as such, the licensing conditions vary according to the number of caravans on each site.

Routine inspections made during the year of the existing licensed sites have shown that on the whole owners are maintaining them in a satisfactory condition. The few minor contraventions found were always quickly remedied when brought to the owners' attention.

One new application for a licence was granted by the Council and as the County Council did not make any discontinuance orders, the total number of licensed sites in the district now stands at 45. Of these only 3 sites have more than 20 caravans whilst 27 sites contain only one.

Several itinerant van dwellers station their vans in the district, the majority of whom are employed as casual workers in agriculture and horticulture.

There was a notable reduction in the number of vans in the district in 1967 due to the failure of the plum crop.

SWIMMING POOL

In March 1967 the Joint Committee of the Borough of Saint Ives and the Rural District were informed by the Ministry that there was no prospect of approval or loan sanction being given for a swimming pool for a period of 2 to 5 years. The Committee decided to defer further consideration for three years but that the scheme prepared by the Engineers be retained as a basis for a future project.

Towards the close of the year however interest was aroused in the possibility of providing a pool in conjunction with the Local Education Authority, with the blessing of the Eastern Sports Council, which latter body could recommend the Ministry to issue approval and loan sanction for such sponsored schemes.

RODENT CONTROL

Following a report to the Council that it had not been possible to arrange for block disinfestations to be carried out to control the rat population in parts of the district and the services of a Rodent Operator from adjoining District Councils were no longer available, the Council decided to enter into a contract with Rentokil Laboratories Service for the control of rats and mice in all domestic premises and on the Council's Sewage Works and Refuse Tips.

The contract commenced in February and complaints were dealt with efficiently and speedily.

The Council considered that the occupiers of Agricultural land could make similar private arrangements with commercial firms if they so desired.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

General statistics compiled from the reports on registered premises are as follows:-

Classification of Premises		
Classification	Number of Premises registered	Number of Employees
Offices	17	59
Shops (Retail)	37	74
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	1	4
Catering Establishments	4	19
Canteens	0	4
Fuel Storage Depots	0	0
Totals	59	160
	Total Males	82
	Total Females	78

A further four premises were registered with the Council during the year bringing the total to 59. In connection with these premises, informal notices were served on the respective occupiers outlining the infringements found when inspections effecting registration were made. Routine inspections of these, and all other registered premises will be made in order to ensure that they are brought up to and maintained in a satisfactory condition.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are two Boarding Kennels in the district which together can provide accommodation for up to 110 dogs. The owners are obliged to renew the licences in respect of the premises with the Council on an annual basis and routine inspections of the premises are regularly made. On the whole these establishments are well run and maintained in good order.

HOUSING

(a) Slum Clearance

The following table shows the progress in the Council's Slum Clearance programme up to the end of the year:-

Number of houses represented as Unfit:-				
(a) Clearance Areas	..	..	..	30
(b) Individual Unfit houses	..	..	..	251
Number dealt with by informal action	..	..	..	5
Total				286
Number of houses included in Clearance Order	..	..	..	30
Number of Demolition Orders made	..	..	..	114
Number of Closing Orders made	..	..	..	2
Number of houses demolished as a result of informal action	..	..	..	10
Number of Undertakings accepted	..	..	..	128
Number of houses closed as a result of informal action	..	..	..	1
Number of houses made fit as a result of informal action	..	..	..	1
				286
Number of Houses Demolished:-				
(a) In Clearance Areas	..	..	..	30
(b) By Demolition Orders	..	..	..	85
(c) By Informal Action	..	..	..	10
(d) As a result of Undertakings	..	..	..	27
Number of Undertakings cancelled	..	..	..	44
Number of Demolition Orders cancelled	..	..	..	11

As can be seen from the above table, the post-war assessment made by the Council which fixed a target of 300 dwellings has nearly been completed.

GENERAL

46 Council houses were completed in 1967 raising the total number to 1,147. The overall rate of natural growth in the district showed no sign of slackening, the number of private dwellings completed was 94. It is interesting to note that out of the total number of houses built by private

enterprise and the Council, namely 140, no fewer than 112 were built in villages where main drainage was available.

Following the decision of the Council to offer building plots for sale at Somersham a number of enquiries were received, the majority being from people with local connections, including Council House Tenants. By the end of the year 11 of the 12 plots were in the process of being sold.

As this procedure appeared to be filling a need and was sufficiently attractive to persuade some Council House tenants to build a house for themselves the Council decided to offer similar building plots for sale at Earith.

A notable trend during the year was shown by the number of private developers who sought a revision of their house types to reduce the number of semi-detached dwellings already approved and to replace them with detached houses or bungalows.

There has been little or no development based on the Radburn principle, which segregates all vehicles from the pedestrian and play areas. The number of terraced houses erected has been negligible.

Development on even a moderate scale continues to be severely curtailed in villages without main drainage but the pressures are so great that some private developers, when submitting schemes for approval are including provision for the treatment of foul drainage on the site by means of an extended aeration plant.

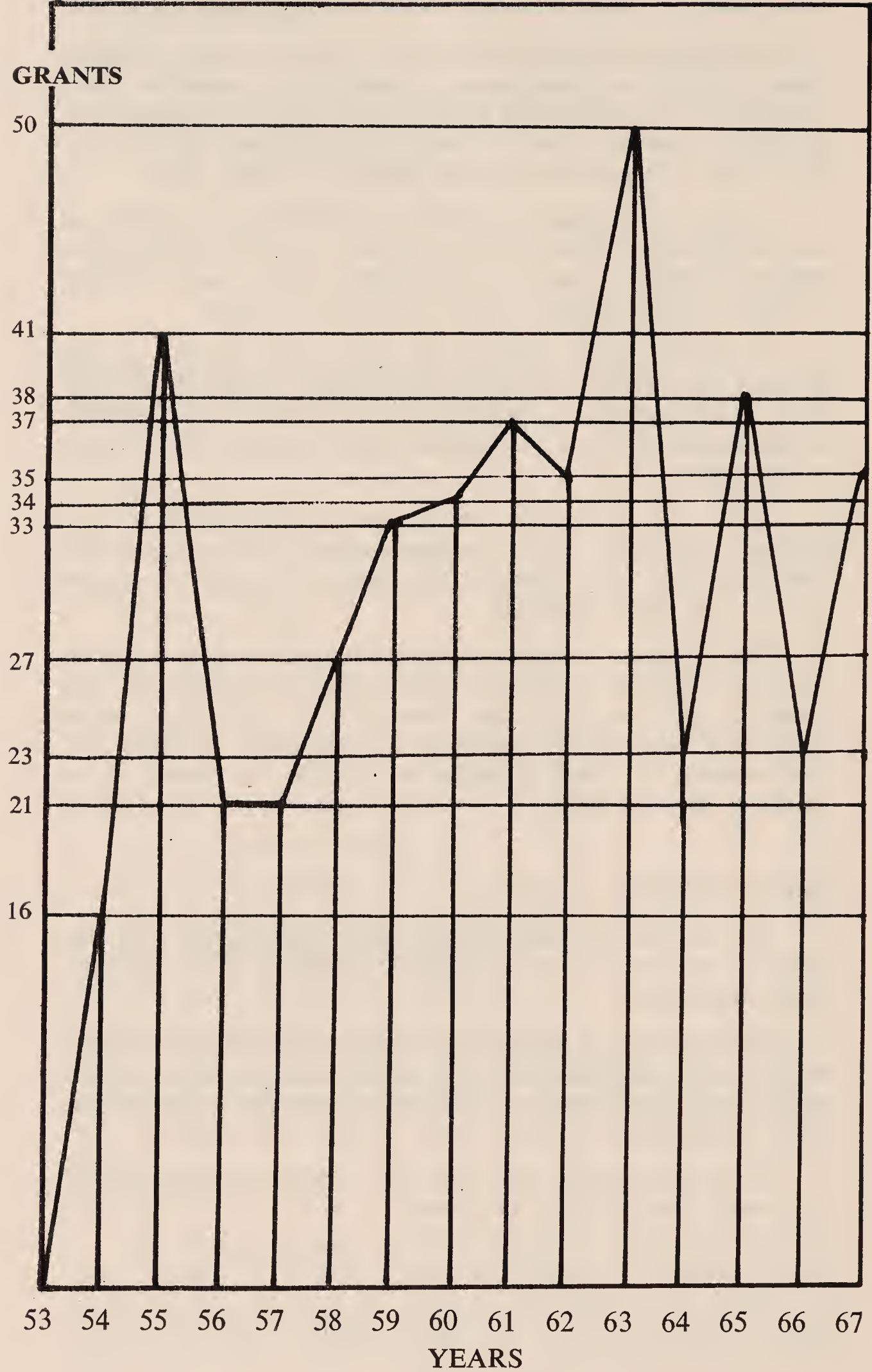
IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The number of improvement grant applications rose this year to 36, two of which were withdrawn, the remainder being approved.

Standard Grants amounting to £6,907 were made in respect of 30 houses and Discretionary Grants amounting to £1,400 were made in respect of 4 houses; averages of £230 and £350 respectively.

In all, the council has approved Grants totalling £91,019 an average cost of £216 per house.

IMPROVEMENT GRANT STATISTICS, 1953-1967



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

As stated in my Annual Report for 1966 a small number of retail premises were far below the standard required under the Food Hygiene Regulations. Detailed reports were submitted to the Council and it decided to institute proceedings in the case of one butcher's premises. The occupier however ceased trading and the premises are not now used for the sale of food. The occupier of another butcher's shop has carried out extensive improvements and repairs to his premises but the occupier of a fish and chip shop ceased trading rather than carry out the improvements required by the Food Regulations.

There is some cause for concern in the variety of highly perishable foods being sold in small shops, such as sausages, meat pies, pasties, cakes and cream confectionery. A number of manufacturers code their perishable foods to indicate the date of production, but usually the retailers are not told how to interpret the code but merely that they should adopt a method of stock rotation to ensure that earlier deliveries are sold before later ones.

It is realised that both the Food Standards Committee and the Consumer Council consider that it is impracticable to date-stamp those food stuffs, but it is suggested that the Food Manufacturers' Federation could do much more to ensure that retailers of such foods are aware of the hazards that they pack on their shelves, (Sometimes directly in line with an electric fire fixed to the wall behind) and their responsibility to the general public to withdraw stale stock from sale.

Milk Supply

The bulk of the milk retailed in the district is purveyed by two firms, the only complaints received by the department were in respect of milk being supplied in dirty bottles. In every case the original cause was due to a consumer using the bottle for another liquid which the sterilization equipment at the Dairy was unable to remove. Perhaps the only way to prevent the occasional dirty bottle escaping detection is by the provision of photo electric cells at bottling establishments.

Ice Cream

Two more premises were registered by the Council during the year for the storage of ice cream intended for retail sale. Both these premises continued the normal trend of selling pre-packed brands manufactured and distributed by national concerns. There are no manufacturers in the District.

Meat and Other Foods

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in the area.

All the meat sold is imported from adjoining areas, butchers buying direct from wholesalers or from local fatstock markets and arranging for animals to be slaughtered in premises situated outside the district.

By arrangement with the Council and two neighbouring Authorities, the Department assists in the inspection of meat at Abattoirs in those districts in any emergency.

Small quantities of tinned meat, fruit and other foods were condemned during the year, including 44 lbs. of mutton at a school canteen.

The only noteworthy consignment condemned was 8 tons of imported chestnuts which on inspection were found to be mouldy and infested with beetles. The Port Health Authority was informed of the circumstances.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The Food premises in the district have been classified as follows:-

Bakers	3
Butchers	8
Cafés and Canteens	11
Confectioners	2
Fish Shops	4
General Stores	54
Greengrocers	4
Licensed Premises	34

The shops are small and are mostly owner-occupied, very few shop assistants being employed.

ADULTERATION

Huntingdon County Council is the primary Authority responsible for the administration of those provisions of the Food and Drugs Act relating to adulteration.

No special circumstances arose where it was considered any action could, with advantage, be taken by the Department.

